



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

A Prayer of Dependence for Independence Day

Week of 7.6.20

Give us this day our daily bread... Matthew 6:11

Big Idea: God delights in our dependence because God delights in us.

We depend on God for our physical needs, for our spiritual needs, and for the abundance to share the physical and spiritual nourishment we've received with others. So, it's good that we serve a God who loves us, who cares about our needs, and who delights in providing for us.

- During the sermon, Randy read from the book of Proverbs:

*Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God
(Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV).*

Why do you think the author of Proverbs is concerned that having riches will cause him to disown God? Has there ever been a time in your life, of either financial security or financial strain, when you've related to these concerns about wealth and poverty?

- In scripture, God describes His kingdom as a banquet where He is the host and all peoples are invited. Consider that image. What does it mean to you that you have

been invited to this party? What does it mean to you that the Lord himself is hosting you?

What does it mean to you that just as God has invited you, He has also invited all of the peoples of the earth, from tribes and cultures about which you know little, and that you will celebrate with them together at the same table?

- God uses people to meet one another's needs. This relationship between people where material needs are being met is part of what the Bible calls righteousness or justice. In the Old Testament, providing for others' needs was built into the laws given to the Israelites.

Leviticus 19:9-10 says, "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."

Israelites with productive property, vineyards and fields of grain, did not have the right to collect everything their land grew. The edges of their fields, the gleanings, and remaining or fallen grapes belonged to the poor and to travelers. This law was part of a system to provide for people in need. What might these verses say to us about how our attitudes should be regarding our own property and resources? What do they say about the rights of people in need? How can we apply these principles in our own cultural context?